



NEWSLETTER



Chittenden/Washington County USDA Service Center

Chittenden/Washington County FSA

802 865-7895 x4
800 910-29035 x4(VT only)
802 8650-7947 fax
www.fsa.usda.gov

Hours

Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

County Committee

Richard Parizo LAA-1
Daniel Pillsbury LAA-2
Sumner Farr, Jr LAA-3
Catherine Scribner LAA-4
Morgan Churchill LAA-5

Upcoming County Committee Meeting Dates

December 6, 2010
January 12, 2011

FSA STAFF

Bradford Parker x103
Lawrence Parker x102
Eileen Powers x106
Pearl Wells x100

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Carloine Alves x203
Heather Dorsey x115
Tate Jeffrey x119
Michel Lapointe x118
Danny Peet x202
Norman Smith x117
John Thurgood x204

Natural Resources Conservation District

Justin Kenny x104

VT Association of Conservation Districts

Mark Marsh x206

ACRE Payments Issued

Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE) payments for 2009 contracts have been issued, and Chittenden & Washington County producers who took a chance on the program received better than a 4 to 1 return on their investment. The average payout per acre of corn planted on contracted farms was around \$91.00, with a four year cost of about \$20.00 per acre. What is ACRE? Basically, ACRE is an offshoot of the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP), where a DCP contract holder agrees to forgo 20% of his regular DCP Direct Payment in exchange for a crop revenue guarantee. An ACRE payment is issued when certain State and farm triggers are met; the State trigger that must be met first is a 10% drop in total crop revenue for a particular crop, while the farm trigger is simply any drop in revenue. Producers enrolling in ACRE are committing to the program through the 2012 crop year. This is a very simplified explanation, and any producer wanting more detailed information should contact the county staff. Enrollment for the 2011 crop year is ongoing, with a signup deadline of June 1, 2011.

Disaster Assistance Programs

FSA disaster assistance programs include:

- Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP)
- Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)
- Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)
- Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program
- Tree Assistance Program (TAP)

Farm-Raised Fish means all fish being produced for sale by an eligible producer. In the case of honey, the term "farm" means all bees and beehives in all counties that are intended to be harvested for a honey crop by the eligible producer.

To be eligible for these programs, producers must purchase catastrophic risk or Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage on all crops.

Producers who meet the definition of Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource Producer, or Beginning Farmer or Rancher, do not have to meet this risk management purchase requirement.

Voting for County Committee Begins

Ballots for this year's county committee election were mailed to eligible voters on November 5, 2010. ***Voters must complete their ballots and return them to the Farm Service Agency county office by the close of business on December 6, 2010.*** If mailed, ballots must be **postmarked** by midnight December 6, 2010.

This year's election covers LAA-1, which encompasses the towns/cities of Burlington, Colchester, Essex, Milton, S. Burlington, Westford and Winooski. The candidates are:

Richard Parizo, II, a dairy farmer living in Milton and,

Murray Thompson, also a dairy farmer, from Colchester.

Eligible voters in local administrative area #1 who have not received a ballot should contact the FSA county office staff.

Voter Requirements :

Persons meeting requirements in **1 or 2, plus 3**, below, are eligible to vote:

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1. Be of legal voting age and have an interest in a farm or ranch as either of the following:

an individual, the authorized representative of an entity, both spouses when property is owned jointly, or spouses in a community property state **or**

2. Is not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm.

AND

3. Participates or cooperates in any FSA program that is provided for by law.

Discrimination Prohibited No person shall be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.

CCC-927 or CCC-928 Must Be Sent To IRS

Producers who participated in 2009 or 2010 programs subject to adjusted gross income limitations (AGI) had to certify compliance with AGI rules. The average AGI verification process for 2009 and 2010 payment eligibility requires all program participants to provide written consent to IRS for the disclosure of certain information to FSA.

On October 6, 2010, a letter was mailed to producers who have not submitted:

CCC-927: "Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information-Individual Form"

CCC-928: "Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information-Legal Entity"

Individuals and legal entities, including members of legal entities, that certified to average AGI compliance for 2009 and/or 2010 payment eligibility must submit a completed CCC-927 or CCC-928 to IRS regardless of whether they received program benefits directly or as a member of a joint operation or entity. These forms must be submitted to IRS in order to avoid a demand for refund of program payments and benefits received.

Farm Loan Year End Reviews

Producers that have a farm loan with FSA are reminded they must provide data for their Year-End Analysis to their loan officer each year. Borrowers are urged to provide this information timely so that their files can be maintained.

Applications for FSA Farm Loan Assistance

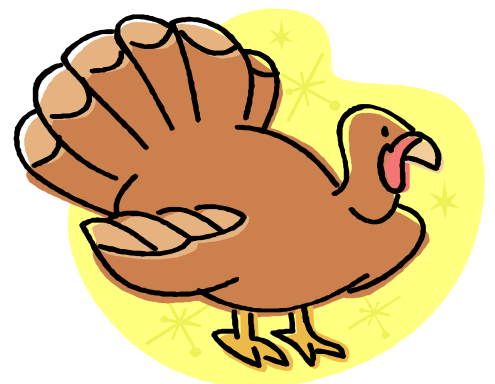
Farmers and ranchers who intend to apply to the Farm Service Agency for loan assistance for the upcoming crop year are encouraged to file their applications as early as possible. Failure to apply early may result in a delay in processing loans due to the volume of applications. Contact your local FSA Farm Loan representative for more details and assistance in applying.

FSA Signature Policy

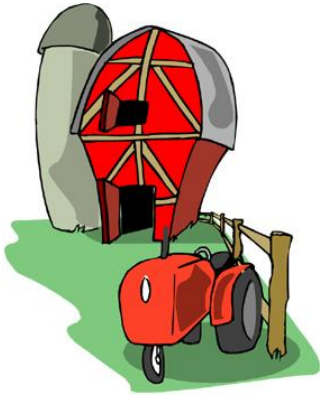
Using the correct signature when doing business with FSA can save time and prevent a delay in program benefits. The following are FSA signature guidelines:

- Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office
- Spouses shall not sign on behalf of each other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, or other similar entities

For additional clarification on proper signatures contact your local FSA office.



Happy Thanksgiving!



New Financial Management Web Page Available for Producers

Producers with level 2 e-authentication access can use the new Public Financial Management Information web page. The website allows producers to generate reports that show both current and historical financial information. This resource will allow users to view details on payments, collections and outstanding debt. The website is a great tool for producers to conveniently access financial information at any time. To view the Financial Management Information web page, visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/fmi>. Please contact your county office if you have any questions regarding the web page.

Note: To obtain level 2 access:

1. Go to www.eauth.egov.usda.gov, complete a customer profile and submit it online
2. After submitting your customer profile, you will receive a confirmation email, and you must respond to it within 7 days to activate your account
3. Then you must complete the “Identity Proofing” process by visiting a local USDA Service Center and presenting a photo ID, such as your driver’s license

Changing Banks

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using Direct Deposit.

To keep the system running smoothly, it’s critical to keep the county office staff up to date on changes you might make with your financial institutions.

If you have **changed accounts or institutions** that might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, contact the FSA county office so we can update our files to insure uninterrupted service.

Selling Land

If you’re planning to sell farmland, there may be some program consequences you should be aware of. For example, if you’re planning to sell land that’s enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program, the buyer

must agree to continue the enrollment, or else you might have to refund all of the payments you’ve received to date.

Reviewing program implications with your local Farm Service Agency staff before completing a sale of farmland is always a prudent precaution.

Farm Reconstitutions

When changes in farm ownership or operation take place, a farm *reconstitution* may be necessary. The reconstitution — or recon — is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation.

The following are the different methods used when doing a farm recon. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by Aug. 1 for farms enrolled in the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program.

Estate Method — the division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate;

Designation of Landowner Method — may be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. In order to use this method the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding;

DCP Cropland Method — the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract;

Default Method — the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

If DCP direct payments have already been issued on a particular farm, the reconstitution will be effective for the next year, unless the payments are refunded.



NRCS Chief Dave White Announces the New England and New York Forestry Initiative – November 5, 2010

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Vermont will implement the Forestry Initiative through the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP). A variety of cost share opportunities are available to Vermont Forest landowners including erosion control practices on forest roads, wildlife habitat improvement practices, non-commercial forest stand improvement, invasive plant control and much more. Forest Management Plans and other forestry practices are also available through a second round sign up for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Landowners can sign up for a conservation program at anytime. However, in order to be considered for these 2011 funds, you'll need to apply by **January 14, 2011**. To be considered for an NRCS conservation program,

you'll need to submit an application to your local Service Center. Application information can be downloaded from the Vermont NRCS web site, <http://www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/WHIP/Indexes.html> or you can pick up an application package at your local Service Center. USDA Service Center locations can be found at the following web site: <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=vt>.

Selected Interest Rates for November 2010	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating - Direct	2.00%
Farm Ownership - Direct	4.125%
Limited Resource	5.00%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility – 7 year	1.875%
Farm Storage Facility – 10 year	2.50%
Farm Storage Facility – 12 year	2.75%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.250%

Dates to Remember	
Nov. 5	County committee ballots mailed to voters
Nov. 11	Veterans Day – Office Closed
Nov. 25	Thanksgiving Day – Office Closed
Ongoing	MILC, FSFL & CREP
Dec 1	NAP Fees Due - Honey
Dec 6	COC Ballots to be returned or postmarked
Dec 24	Christmas Day – Office Closed
Jan 1, 2011	New Years Day – Office Closed
Jan 1, 2011	NAP Fees Due – Maple Sap